

**AGENDA:** June 24, 2003

**4.5**

**CATEGORY:** Consent

**DEPT.:** City Council

**TITLE:** Opposition to California Homeland Security Funding Plan Concept as Created by the Director of California's Office of Homeland Security

**RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE, IN CONCEPT, THE CALIFORNIA HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING PLAN AS CREATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF CALIFORNIA'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY, to be read in title only, further reading waived.

**FISCAL IMPACT**—There is no fiscal impact to approving the recommendation.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

At the May 13, 2003 City Council meeting, I provided an update of the activities of the Emergency Preparedness Council of Santa Clara County (EPC), a committee on which I serve as the representative of the City of Mountain View. As I indicated during my comments on May 13, 2003, members of the EPC are concerned about the creation of an approval authority as proposed by George Vinson, Director of California's Office of Homeland Security and a member of Governor Gray Davis' staff.

The EPC's primary concerns with this approval authority, as outlined in the attached resolution (Attachment 1), stem from the determination by the EPC that the approval authority consists of five members who are mostly political appointees and, therefore, cannot be held accountable by the voting public for their actions. The area of homeland security and funding to local entities for activities related to homeland security is very important and may directly affect our community and our ability to respond in case of a terrorist threat or action. The approval authority as proposed disregards the authority of local government officials by eliminating the EPC's role in providing input related to funding for homeland security-related activities. Thus, the EPC is seeking the support of member cities to ask Governor Gray Davis to oppose, in theory and practice, the creation of the approval authority in its current form. I am therefore requesting that Council adopt the attached resolution.

**AGENDA:** June 24, 2003

**PAGE:** 2

**PUBLIC NOTICING**—Agenda posting.

Prepared by:

Rosemary Stasek  
Councilmember

RS/JP/6/CAM  
607-06-24-03M^

Attachment: 1. Resolution

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW  
RESOLUTION NO.  
SERIES 2003

A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE, IN CONCEPT, THE CALIFORNIA HOMELAND  
SECURITY FUNDING PLAN AS CREATED BY THE  
DIRECTOR OF CALIFORNIA'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

WHEREAS, the City of Mountain View recognizes the importance of addressing the need for increased funding for homeland security following the attacks on September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, George Vinson, the Director of California's Office of Homeland Security has proposed a California Homeland Security Funding Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Preparedness Council of Santa Clara County, which is a representative body of all elected officials in the County and which includes representation by Councilmember Rosemary Stasek, originally approved the creation of Mr. Vinson's approval authority based on the concern that not doing so would result in the loss of Federal funds for local programming related to homeland security; and

WHEREAS, the current proposal presented by Mr. Vinson removes the Emergency Preparedness Council of Santa Clara County's approval of the approval authority by removing the accountability of funding decisions for local measures related to homeland security from an established group of elected officials from across Santa Clara County and, in essence, provides full funding or decision-making authority to a nonelected entity; and

WHEREAS, the current allocation of voting rights under Mr. Vinson's proposal deprives the cities of Santa Clara County of population-based representation by creating a process for the selection of individuals who will serve on the approval authority; and

WHEREAS, the approval authority has no legal accountability to anyone because there is no clear chain of command and the membership consists of just one elected official and four political appointees appointed by Mr. Vinson; and

WHEREAS, there was no legal or outreach process involved in the implementation of the approval authority and the selection of its membership because there was a failure to contact the State Legislature for their comments and no effort was

made to follow standard administrative procedures for the enactment of this type of committee; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Mountain View agrees to oppose this program in concept, asking that Governor Gray Davis reconsider this funding mandate in both theory and practice, acknowledging that there are better methods for increasing the funding for safety and security of residents of Santa Clara County.

-----

JP/6/RESO  
607-06-24-03R^